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Received & Inspected

AUG 25 2011

FCC Mail Room

ORIGINAL

**Commissioners:**

Christopher M. Gardner, Chairman  
John B. Crowley, Sr., Commissioner  
Kevin L. Shorey, Commissioner

**County Manager:**

Betsy Fitzgerald  
**Administrative Secretary:**  
Gail Popham

August 16, 2011

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).*

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing about the matter above and would like to convey my perspective on the merger, and its potential effect on Washington County in Maine.

Our county is located further east than any other in the United States and is made up of 2500 square miles of geographically challenging terrain. We have a number of small coastal communities located on peninsulas located along the longest coastline on the eastern side of the country. Nature-based commerce and tourism are our main industries, while a number of small businesses support them.

The county has several carriers offering DSL, fixed wireless and some fiber optics. Connecting to the Internet via mobile phones is still difficult and notoriously inconsistent. The lack of access is an obstacle to the county's ability to stay current with other parts of the country, particularly coastal areas.

I am convinced that more private investment in the county's networks will have a beneficial impact on our economy. For that reason, I am in favor of AT&T and T-Mobile USA's merger.

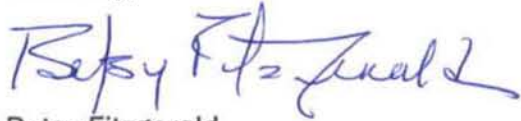
"The Sunrise County – where the sun first shines!"

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Maine is uniquely positioned to benefit from this action. The tourist economy will prosper if visitors can stay connected, and stay longer as a result. Additionally, businesspeople who love visiting Maine might see an opportunity to relocate their companies here. Reliable, high speed wireless communications in Maine has the potential to largely eliminate the disadvantages brought on by the challenges in being a remote state, while maintaining the advantages of being a beautiful area with a high quality of life.

I hope you will consider the above factors as you make your decision as whether to approve the merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Fitzgerald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betsy" and last name "Fitzgerald" clearly distinguishable.

Betsy Fitzgerald  
Manager  
Washington County, ME

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell